

EPA Advocacy Recommends that EPA Address Small Businesses Concerns with the Proposed Changes to the Requirements for the Certification of Pesticide Applicators

On December 8, 2015, the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) filed a comment letter with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding its proposed rule entitled, “Pesticides; Certification of Pesticide Applicators.” A complete copy of Advocacy’s letter to EPA may be accessed [here](#).

- On August 24, 2015, EPA issued the proposed rule, which will:
 - Increase the competency standards for private applicators, commercial applicators and add new requirements for noncertified applicators working under the direct supervision of a certified applicator.
 - Require applicators to renew their certification every three years (requiring that half of the credits be obtained within eighteen months).
 - Establish a minimum age requirement of eighteen for certified applicators and for persons working under their direct supervision.
- Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), EPA certified that the proposed rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.
- Based on small business feedback, Advocacy is concerned that this rule will result in unnecessary and unjustified burdens and substantial costs for small businesses.
- Advocacy urges EPA to consider small businesses’ recommendations to address their important concerns by following the Panel recommendations for reducing the minimum age requirement for certain applicators, modifying the requirements by reducing the number of continuing education units required for recertification, and by eliminating the requirement for obtaining half the credits within eighteen months.

For more information, visit Advocacy’s Web page at <http://www.sba.gov/advocacy>, or contact Assistant Chief Counsel Tayyaba Waqar by email at twaqar@sba.gov or by phone at 202-205-6790.